कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): (क) और (ख) सितंबर, 1997 में भारत और बंगलादेश के बीच एक मोटर वाहन करार पर वार्ता के दौरान चर्चा में शामिल मसलों में कलकत्ता और ढाका को जोड़ने के लिए बस सेवा आरंभ किये जाने का प्रस्ताव भी था। बंगलादेश की सरकार ने प्रस्तावित मार्ग को अमजेर तक बढ़ाये जाने का अनुरोध किया था परन्तु उसके प्रश्चात वह ढाका और कलकत्ता के बीच एक बस मार्ग के प्रस्ताव पर वापस आ गयी है। भारत की सरकार ने बंगलादेश को मोटर वाहन करार का एक प्रारूप सौंपा है जो इस मार्ग और अन्य मार्गों के निर्माण को सुगम बनायेगा।

Blacklisting of Indian Organisations by USA

565. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 200 Indian Organisations have been blacklisted by the United States administration;

(b) if so, to what extent the US decision is likely to effect our economy; and

(c) whether any protest has been lodged by Government with the US administration and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) the US Department of Commerce published on 13th November 1998 a list of Indian entities that will be subject to export restrictions. The list includes 40 Indian Government agencies, public sector units and private companies. together with their subsidiaries the total number of such entities is 208. The US Govt. notification states that US Commerce Department licences will be required for export by US companies to the listed entities.

(b) This step is likely to have an adverse impact on mutually beneficially business interactions, particularly those related to dual use high technology items, both through delays and denials of export licences. Exports of US companies to India will also be affected. India has been subject to similar restrictions over several years. India has been able to overcome such impediments to its defence and security related programmes.

(c) GOI issued a statement on November 14, 1998 indicating that this was a highly unfortunate development and further that these restrictions interfere with the free flow of trade, technology & finance and would have an adverse impact on mutually beneficial business interaction. This decision reflects the continuation of a coercive approach that is entirely misplaced and counter productive. Such steps are unhelpful for meaningful discusions towards an improvement in bilateral relations which is desired by both countries.

Subsidy to Haj Pilgrims

566. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to reduce subsidy being given to Haj pilgrims;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) why has the constitution of Haj Committee been delayed by nearly two years; and

(d) by when will it be reconstituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Government has been providing a subsidy to the Ministry of Civil Aviation in respect of Haj air charter fares to make up the difference between the fare paid by each pilgrim, i.e., Rs. 12,000/-, and the fare per pilgrim actually finalised with the air charter company. The Haj air charter fares are under negotiations at present. The extent of subsidy to be provided for Haj-99 will be decided after the air charter agreement has been finalised.

(c) and (d) The Haj Committee Act of 1959 provides that the life of the Haj Committee be a minimum of three years; however, no maximum period is provided. Taking into account the fact that the present Haj Committee has completed more than five years, the Government has decided to reconstitute the Committee. Towards this end, nominations have been received from various authorities provided for in the Haj Committee Act. However, on 25th September, 1998, the Supreme Court issued a stay order on the reconstitution of the Committee. The Committee will be reconstituted after the stay order has been vacated.

भारतीय श्रमिकों का उत्पीड़न

567. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार के पास विदेशों में काम कर रहे भारतीय श्रमिकों के उत्पीड़न की शिकायतों से संबंधित कोई अधिकारिक आंकड़े हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान प्राप्त शिकायतों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इन शिकायतों के संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(घ) उपरोक्त अवधि के दौरान देश में वापिस लाए गये श्रमिकों की संख्या कितनी है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): (क) जी हां।

(ख) सरकार के पास उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार पिछले तीन वर्षों में विदेशों में भारतीय श्रमिकों को तंग किए जाने के बारे में शिकायतों की संख्या नीचे दिए अनुसार है:—

1996	5988
1997	10204
1998	9052

(ग) मानक प्रक्रिया के रूप में जैसे ही शिकायतें प्राप्त होती हैं विदेश स्थित भारतीय राजनयिक मिशनों/केन्द्रों से मामले को विदेशी नियोक्ताओं/प्रायोजकों अथवा उनके भारतीय एजेंटों के साथ उठाने के लिए कहा जाता है। सामान्यतः, शिकायतें नियोक्ताओं और सम्बद्ध विदेशी सरकार/एजेंसियों के सहयोग से दूर कर दी जाती हैं। विवाद के कुछ मामलों में सम्बद्ध देश में श्रम अदालतों के माध्यम से मामला सुलझाया जाता है। इसके अतिरिक्त, मंत्रालय के निदेशानुसार हमारे राजनयिक मिशन/केन्द्र प्रत्येक मामले में सन्तोषजनक निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचने तक मामले पर नजर रखते हैं।

(घ) उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार पिछले 3 वर्षों में भारत प्रत्यावर्तित किए गए भारतीय श्रमिकों की संख्या नीचे दी गई है:—

1996	12517
1997	23498
1998	4204

Discussions on Sir Creek Tangle

568. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sir Creek Tangle was discussed with the Pak delegation during the recent Indo-Pak talks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Pakistan is interested to raise this issue at the international fora?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) As part of the composite dialogue process, India and Pakistan held talks on Sir Creek in New Delhi on 9th November, 1998. During these discussions, Government pointed out that the boundary in the area had already been settled by the Resolution of 1914. Maps published in 1925, when demarcation on the basis of the 1914 Resolution was completed, showed the boundary in the middle of the Sir Creek. Government proposed that as the boundary had already been accepted as settled by both Indian and Pakistan, this already settled and demarcated boundary should be formalised. Government further propsoed that pending formalisation of the boundary in the Sir Creek, delimitation